From: Nichols, Clay
To: Lesli Gray
Cc: Shawn Sartorius
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Follow up on your inquiry
Date: Friday, September 28, 2018 10:26:45 AM

Yes I think this probably the best we can say at this point

Clay Nichols
Fish & Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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Office: 817-277-1100 ext 2116
Cell: (817) 471-6372

On Fri, Sep 28, 2018 at 11:24 AM Gray, Lesli <lesli_gray@fws.gov> wrote:

> Hi Clay and Shawn, before I called the reporter back just want to confirm that the if asked statement (below) we developed in July is the info I should use to respond. Thank you - Lesli
>
> The Service is conducting a species status assessment (SSA) for the lesser prairie-chicken (LPC). The results of the SSA are included in a draft report that includes the best available information to characterize the current and future condition of the LPC, taking into account both threats and conservation efforts. Biologists from five Service field offices across two Regions throughout the LPC's range have participated in the development of the SSA Report, along with input from a multi-agency Working Group of LPC experts. The Service will use the results of the SSA Report to inform future decisions about the LPC, including decisions about the legal status of the species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
>
> On September 8, 2016, we received a petition to list the LPC as endangered across its entire range, as well as three distinct population segments of the LPC under the ESA. A positive 90-day finding was published on November 30, 2016, and a 12-month finding will be prepared to respond to the petition. Publication of a 12-month finding is expected to occur following the finalization of the SSA Report.
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ---------
> From: **Hires, Brian** <brian_hires@fws.gov>
> Date: Fri, Sep 28, 2018 at 11:18 AM
> Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Re: Follow up on your inquiry
> To: Lesli Gray <lesli_gray@fws.gov>
>
> Want to handle this? Thanks!
>
> Brian
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ---------

From: **Jimmy Tobias** <jtoby87@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Sep 27, 2018 at 11:58 AM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Follow up on your inquiry
To: Hires, Brian <brian_hires@fws.gov>

Hi Brian,

Thanks for the email and forgive my slow reply. I will get back to you with queries regarding the Texas hornshell, but I have a quick other question at the moment: Can you tell me what the current status of the Fish and Wildlife Service's recommendation to the Interior Secretary's office to list the lesser prairies chicken under the Endangered Species Act? Where does that recommendation stand? Has FWS been granted approval to write a rule?

Please let me know if you get a chance, and thank you!

Sincerely,

Jimmy Tobias

On Mon, Sep 17, 2018 at 11:19 AM Hires, Brian <brian_hires@fws.gov> wrote:

> Hi Jimmy,
>
> Just a quick follow up on your inquiry involving the Texas hornshell. Do you have specific questions or new leads you can share for your follow up piece on this issue? Just trying to figure out the best resources and people at this point.
>
> Thanks,
>
> --
> Brian Hires
> Public Affairs Officer
> **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters**
> Falls Church, VA
> 703-346-9941 mobile
> 703-358-2191 office

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